

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAN JO 02065 212001Z

62

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 130832

O 211823Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 256

S E C R E T SAN JOSE 2065

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR ARA/CEN LAZARFROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINS, CS
SUBJECT: CONTINUED TALK OF A COUP: CARBINES

REF: STATE 116936

1. PENDING RECEIPT OF MESSAGE MENTIONED YOUR PARAGRAPH ONE, I SEE NO REASON WHY USG SHOULD NOT SEEL CARBINES TO GOCR ON AS IS/WHERE IS BASIS DELIVERED IN EUROPE. GOCR WOULD HAVE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ARRANGING SHIPMENT TO COSTA RICA. OF COURSE, I TAKE FOR GRANTED THAT WE WOULD PROMPTLY RELEASE FULL DETAILS OF TRANSACTION IF LATER SITUATION CALLED FOR THAT.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE "SPECULATIVE SCENARIO" WHICH YOU OUTLINE, I OF COURSE CANNOT SAY CATEGORICALLY THAT IT IS NOT PLAUSIBLE, AND INDEED THERE ARE INTRICATE PERSONAL AND POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS INVOLVED THE FINAL EVOLUTION OF WHICH CANNOT FULLY BE FORESEEN, BUT IT IS MY PRESENT JUDGMENT THAT ODUBER IS NOT IN CAHOOTS WITH FIGUERES IN PLOTTING A PRE-EMPTIVE COUP. I BELIEVE ESSENTIALLY THAT HE HAS BEEN REASONABLY OPEN AND DIRECT WITH ME ON THIS MATTER, AND THAT HIS BASIC MOTIVE IS THE OBVIOUS ONE TO ENLIST OUR SYMPATHY ANJOSUPPORT IF THINGS GET OUT OF HAND. INCLUDED IN THAT "SUPPORT" RIGHT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SAN JO 02065 212001Z

NOW IS THE MATTER OF THE CARBINES, AND I BELIEVE WE SHOULD

PROCEED TO DELIVER THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. WHILE IT IS CORRECT THAT PEPE FIGUERES IS THE PRIME THREAT AT PRESENT TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT HERE, AND THAT WITHOUT HIS CJME AND LEADERSHIP IT IS QUESTIONABLE THAT A COUP COULD BE BROUGHT OFF, THERE ARE OTHER ACTORS ON BOTH THE LEFT AND RIGHT WHO ARE CAPABLE AND DISPOSED TO SEEK TO EMBARRASS OR EVEN THREATEN THE GOVERNMENT WITH ACTS OF VIOLENCE TO SERVE THEIR PARTICULAR BUG-A-BOOS. THE GOVERNMENT IS LEGITIMATELY CONCERNED ABOUT THESE THREATS TO PUBLIC SECURITY AND ITS OWN IMAGE, AND ALSO ABOUT THE POOR CONDITION AND INSUFFICIENT QUANTITY OF THE ARMS INVENTORY OF THE PUBLIC FORCES. THE CARBINES AND OTHER ITEMS REQUESTED ARE INTENDED TO HELP CORRECT THOSE SHORTFALLS. GIVEN THE LARGE NUMBER OF ARMS ALREADY WIDESPREAD IN THIS COUNTRY BY ALL REPORTS -- MANY NO DOUBT IN THE HANDS OF THOSE INCLUDING FIGUERES WHO MIGHT THREATEN THE GOVERNMENT -- I SEE NO ADEQUATE JUSTIFICATION FOR WITHHOLDING ASSISTANCE TO THE LEGITIMATE, CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITIES.

4. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THERE ARE ELEMENTS IN BOTH GUARDS THAT ARE PERSONALLY CLOSE TO FIGUERES. HOWEVER, MY BEST JUDGMENT IS THAT THE PREPONDERANCE OF THE KEY CIVIL GUARD IS LOYAL TO ITS PRESENT LEADERSHIP WHICH IN TURN IS LOYAL TO ODUBER. THE LATTER, AND MINISTER CHARPENTIER, ARE CONFIDENT OF THESE FORCES AND I BELIEVE WE MUST CREDIT THEM WITH REASONABLY GOOD JUDGMENT IN THIS MATTER.

5. A LETTER WILL FOLLOW NEXT WEEK WITH FULLER RELECTIONS ON YOUR LETTER OF MAY 8, 1975.

TODMAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL SITUATION, ALLEGATIONS, PLOTS, ARMS SHIPMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANJO002065
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750178-0732
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750531/aaaabbsm.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 116936
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUED TALK OF A COUP: CARBINES
TAGS: PINS, CS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006